PAK PAK

DASH

HNGH !!

SWISH

GRAB

Episode 17: Delusions of Strength

WHUMP

Two years after beginning training

YOU'RE USED TO GRAP-PLING, AREN'T YOU?

SORRY ... I'VE GOT BAD CON-TROL.

YEESH... I THOUGHT I WAS TOO BIG FOR YOU TO FLIP ONTO THE GROUND...

OW... C'MON, THIS TIME YOU BE THE BAD GUY.

IT'S NOT LIKE SOLDIERS FIGHT **PEOPLE.**

STILL.. I DON'T GET THIS TRAIN-ING.

THUD

HUH ...

BACK WHEN I LIVED IN THE CITY, I PLAYED WITH THIS HUGE KID...

IN THE FIRST PLACE, ONLY A FOOL WOULD GO AFTER AN ATTACKER BARE-HANDED.

DON'T LET THE INSTRUC-TOR HEAR YOU SAY THAT...

MangaFire.to

AND THESE COMBAT SKILLS... EVEN IF THEY WORKED IN REAL LIFE, IT'D JUST BE SHEER LUCK.

WE DON'T LEARN ANYTHING USING A WOODEN KNIFE.

OF ALL THE IRRE-SPON-SIBLE ...

RUN AWAY, OF COURSE!

OKAY, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IN THAT SITUA-TION?

...IT USUALLY DOESN'T END WELL.

THE TRUTH IS...

...

IT'S NOT CHILD'S PLAY.

BUT I STILL THINK IT'S IRRESPON-SIBLE.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY.

...

WE'RE SOLDIERS, AREN'T WE?

WHEN THE PEOPLE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT ARE THREATENED, WE HAVE TO ENTER THE FRAY AND SHIELD THEM.

THERE ARE TIMES WE CAN'T RUN AWAY, NO MATTER HOW BAD THE ODDS ARE.

MangaFire.to

AS STRONG SOLDIERS.

...OUR RE-SPON-SIBIL-ITY...

I THINK THAT'S ...

AND IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO OR WHAT THE ENEMY IS. WE NEED TO MASTER SKILLS AND GET STRONGER, WITH ARTILLERY AS WELL AS HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

EVEN BACK THEN...

I'M A KID WHO ONLY KNOWS HOW TO SPOUT OUT HIS OWN FEELINGS.

THE KID HERE ...

...IS ME.

...

MM?

THE RESPONSI-BILITY THAT COMES WITH POWER... I'D NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

BACK TO TRAIN-ING!

SORRY... I DIDN'T MEAN TO LECTURE YOU LIKE SOME KNOW-IT-ALL...

MM ?

HEY... LOOK AT HER...

MangaFire.to

...

I'M GONNA TEACH ANNIE HOW TO DEAL WITH A DAGGER, TOO.

HUH ?

I'VE GOT IT, EREN.

THE INSTRUCTOR NEVER CATCHES HER SLACKING OFF.

OH... ANNIE ...

...ON HOW A SOLDIER SHOULD BEHAVE, AND I'LL BE THE ONE TO GIVE IT TO HER!

THAT SLOUCH IS THE ONE WHO REALLY NEEDS THE LECTURE...

...

CHFF

CHFF

CHFF

...I SUGGEST YOU RECALL THE FIRST DAY YOU ARRIVED, AND GET SERIOUS.

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T WANNA GET ANY SHORTER THAN YOU ALREADY ARE...

DO YOU LIKE THE INSTRUC-TOR'S HEAD-BUTTS?

ACK...!

...

GLANCE

HUH? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOU-

FWISH

ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO, EREN!

SHE'S FURIOUS ...

SHE ALWAYS LOOKS TICKED OFF... BUT THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO RIGHT NOW...

ANNIE ?

!

YOU REMEMBER HOW IT'S DONE?

WE'RE PRACTICING THE FORMAL WAY TO DEAL WITH AN EDGED WEAPON.

SHE

SLASH

DASH

HERE I COME !

TAP

FLASH

Manga Mexico

KRAK

NH?!

!!

WOBBLE

CAN I GO NOW?

OW ...

THROB

YOU... KICKED MY LEG?

WHAT WAS THAT?!

QUIVER QUIVER

NGAH ...

...HEY!! WAIT A SECOND!

NOT YET! WE TRAIN UNTIL YOU TAKE AWAY THE DAGGER FROM YOUR OPPONENT!

THERE'S A WAY YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO THIS!

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

ANNIE, WAIT!

CHFF

WHOA ...!!

...

MMGH !!

SHOVE

UNH !!

FWISH

KRAK

SPIN

Manga Dynasty

WHUMP

!

FWIP

HERE.

...

DIN

DIN

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO ATTACK ME.

DIN

GET HER, REINER!

I'M ...

CHFF

CHFF

N-NO ...

...

THIS IS ONE OF 'EM.

YEAH... THERE ARE TIMES A SOLDIER CAN NEVER BACK DOWN.

...OF BEING A SOLDIER, RIGHT?

YOU'RE GONNA TEACH HER THE RESPONSI-BILITY...

!!

...

DONNNNG

...!

YOUR TECH-NIQUE'S INCRED-IBLE.

...

REINER'S NEARLY TWICE YOUR SIZE AND YOU SENT HIM FLYING...

...

...

SOMEBODY TAUGHT YOU, RIGHT?

MY FATHER...

Manga Fire.co

NONE OF IT HAS ANY MEANING.

HUH?

IT DOESN'T MATTER...

...

DID HE COME UP WITH THOSE MOVES?

NOD

YOU MEAN THIS TRAINING? IT'S MEANING-LESS...?

...

LOOK AT HOW THE PASSIONATE APPLICANTS FOR INTERIOR DUTY, INCLUDING ME, TREAT IT...

THIS ONE-ON-ONE COMBAT DOESN'T COUNT FOR ANY POINTS.

...OR ACT LIKE IDIOTS.

THE OTHERS EITHER TAKE IT REAL SERIOUSLY, LIKE YOU GUYS...

THEY USE THIS TIME TO UNWIND AFTER THE ROUGH TRAINING EARLIER...

FWISH

UH-OH! THE INSTRUC-TOR!

FWISH

AH...

!!

GRAB

SEE, I'M NOT AIMING TO BE A GREAT SOLDIER. I JUST WANT THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN THE INTERIOR.

ANYWAY... VERTICAL MANEUVERING SKILLS ARE WORTH A LOT OF POINTS, SO THAT'S ALL I CARE ABOUT.

HOW D'YOU THINK IT GOT TO BE SUCH A FARCE?

WHY IS IT THAT IN THIS WORLD THE PEOPLE WITH THE BEST ABILITY TO OPPOSE THE TITANS GET THE PRIVILEGE OF STAYING FAR AWAY FROM THEM?

!

SHF

YANK

GOOD QUESTION!

!

MM ...

TREMBL-

UNH ...!

PERHAPS IT'S HUMAN NATURE...?

WHUMP

FWISH

WHOA!

EVEN AS A KID, I KNEW IT WAS CRAP... BUT DAD MADE ME LEARN THESE POINTLESS MOVES, AND I WAS TOO YOUNG TO DEFY HIM...

CARRIED AWAY WITH IDEALS THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH REALITY...

MY FATHER WAS LIKE YOU TWO...

...IN THIS PATHETIC WORLD!

...WHO ENJOYS PLAYING SOLDIER...

SHE

I REFUSE TO BE ONE OF THOSE MORONS...

CHFF

...

SEEMS TO ME YOU'RE JUST NOT MEANT TO BE A SOLDIER...

CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER

OF COURSE, THAT KIND OF MOVE CAN'T BE PULLED OFF BY JUST ANYONE...

...

THAT WAY YOU USE THE INERTIA AND DON'T CONSUME AS MUCH FUEL.

AT TIMES LIKE THAT YOU SHOULD REV IT UP, JUST FOR A SECOND.

TO KEEP THE TECHNIQUES FROM DYING OUT, THEY HAD TO RAISE THEIR VALUE BY PROMISING PEOPLE A LIFE IN THE INTERIOR. BUT THEY'VE KEPT THAT UP EVEN AFTER WE LOST A WALL, SO NOW EVERYONE'S TRYING TO GET IN...

EREN'S RIGHT. BEFORE THE FALL OF WALL MARIA, VERTICAL MANEUVERING TECHNIQUES WERE ONLY NECESSARY FOR THE RELATIVELY FEW SOLDIERS IN THE SURVEY CORPS...

...SO NO INNOVATIONS WERE MADE AND THE PRACTICE WENT INTO DECLINE.

IT REALLY IS A FARCE...

EREN, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

THEY'RE THINKING UP WAYS TO BOOST TITAN-KILLING TECHNOLOGY IN ORDER TO STAY AWAY FROM THE TITANS...

AT THIS RATE, SOON THEY WILL ...

DOESN'T MEAN I WANT WORD TO GET AROUND! THEN COMPETI-TION'LL GET TOUGHER.

BUT JUST 'CAUSE I'M REALLY GOOD WITH VERTICAL MANEUVER-ING...

WHAT, EREN?

JEAN ...

HEY ...

THIS PLAN TO IMPROVE TITAN-KILLING TECHNIQUES BY PROMISING A LIFE FAR AWAY FROM THE TITANS ...

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S CRAZY?

DAMN IT...

MangaFire.to

AFTER ALL, THEY KEEP THIS STUPID PLAN AROUND FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME.

BUT THAT'S REALITY, SO ALL I CAN DO IS GO WITH THE FLOW.

...

WELL... YOU MAY HAVE A POINT...

WHAT, JEALOUS BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT?!

YOU SON OF A BITCH!!

RATTLE

RATTLE

WHY DON'T THEY GIVE IT A REST...

NOT AGAIN!

BUZZ

THERE THEY GO AGAIN!

I MEAN ...

WELL, DON'T COMPLAIN TO ME...

CHFF

WHEN EVERYONE WITH ANY POTENTIAL SHUTS THEMSELVES UP IN THE INTERIOR!!

LOOK !!

TELL ME HOW TO BEAT THE TITANS...

RATTLE

HUH ?!?

I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU...!!

GRAB

...MY CLOTHES ARE GONNA RIP!!

YOU GRAB ME LIKE THAT...

...ASS-HOLE.

QUIVER QUIVER

!

IF YOU DON'T BACK OFF...

QUIVER

WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?

I ENVY YOU!

WHO CARES ABOUT YOUR CLOTHES?!

HE WAS...

...I SEE...

MangaFire.to

I'M...

BUT I'M DIFFERENT NOW...

QUIVER

LIKE I DID BEFORE...

...JUST VENTING HIS FEELINGS.

...A SOLDIER!

QUIVER

WHAP

THAK

Manga Fire

WHAP

I'LL USE MY SKILLS TO FINISH THIS.

SWISH

OW...!

おおおお

...WHILE YOU WERE LYING AROUND.

...WAS A MOVE I LEARNED THE HARD WAY...

THAT...

FWISH

JACKASS!! WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!

...YOU CALL YOUR-SELF...

HOW CAN...

YOU SAY REALITY IS LIVING AN EASY LIFE AND GIVING IN TO YOUR FEELINGS?

...A SOLDIER?

Manga Mine.to

KA-CHK

!!

?!

WHAT'D YOU SAY ABOUT BEING A SOL-DIER?

TREMBLE TREMBLE

CAN ANYONE GIVE ME AN EXPLANATION...?

I JUST HEARD A LOUD NOISE IN HERE...

CREAK

SHF

TAK

TAK

HUH ?!

IT WAS SASHA LETTING OUT A HUGE FART.

CREAK

LEARN SOME SELF-CONTROL.

!!

YOU AGAIN, EH...?

...

THAT WAS CLOSE, JEAN.

...IT'S NOT OVER BETWEEN US.

THE TROUBLE IS...

...OVER A STUPID FIGHT!

YOU ALMOST LOST YOUR CHANCE TO BECOME AN MP...

I HAVE AN IDEA.

BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE CARE OF THIS HERE...

I'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE READY.

WE HAVE TIME TO SCUFFLE OUT IN THE OPEN, DON'T WE?

Manga Fire.to

HEY, ANNIE ...

...

HE'S DOING IT SO HE CAN PAY YOU BACK.

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S WORKING HARD TO BECOME A GREAT SOLDIER.

...NO, NOT REALLY...

DOES IT LOOK TO YOU LIKE JEAN IS SLACKING OFF?

...HE *IS* SERIOUS ABOUT LEARNING THE MOVES.

OH, I'M SURE ...

BUT ...

THAT'S MY DAUGHTER!!

THUD

WELL DONE, ANNIE!

THUD

HAH ...

IT SUCKED.

NOT EVEN CLOSE.

I WAS JUST IMITATING WHAT YOU DID, BUT IT WORKED PERFECTLY!

ANYWAY, WHAT'D YOU THINK OF MY KICK?

...I WOULDN'T MIND TEACHING IT TO YOU.

IF YOU LIKE IT THAT MUCH ...

...

WHAT WAS WRONG WITH IT?

SE-RI-OUS-LY...?

FWOOOO

OH PLEASE, I INSIST.

OOOOOO

IT REALLY HURTS...

HUH? NO THANKS!

WHACK

MangaFire.to

Current Publicly Available Information

9. Ultrahard Steel

THIS STEEL IS ONLY PRODUCED AT FACTORY TOWNS. IT COMBINES TOUGHNESS AND FLEXIBILITY TO SLICE THROUGH TITAN FLESH, AND IT'S CURRENTLY THE ONLY MATERIAL CAPABLE OF THAT. AS SUCH, THE SINGLE-EDGED SWORD, A SPECIALLY CREASED FORGED BLADE, IS KNOWN FAR AND WIDE AS AN ANTI-TITAN WEAPON. BLAST FURNACES ARE ESSENTIAL TO REFINE "ULTRAHARD STEEL," WHICH IS WHY IT CAN ONLY BE PRODUCED IN FACTORY TOWNS. THE FORGING PROCESS REQUIRES VERY SMALL QUANTITIES OF SEVERAL RARE METALS, BUT EXACTLY WHICH ONES AND IN WHAT RATIOS HAVE BECOME SECRETS KNOWN ONLY TO RESIDENTS OF THOSE TOWNS.

(WITH THANKS TO UKYŌ KODACHI AND KIYOMUNE MIWA)